

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Concentration of ownership and control of media vehicles leads to concentration of control over content and narrowing of diversity of information sources. This is a major threat to democracy. In fact, the flagrant big-business bias of the FCC, Chairman Powell's total disregard for Madisonian principles of divided power and checks and balances (as important in the private media sector as in government) are making a mockery of antitrust legislation and the "right to know." I think the cable ownership cap and cross-ownership rules are the MINIMUM necessary in the cyber-age if we are to avoid an Orwellian media dictatorship of mega-corporations. I might add that my own experience is that these companies, like AT & T, provide shoddy and over-priced service, which will only get worse as they face reduced competition.